



Bethany - Branford - East Haven - Guilford - Hamden - Madison - Meriden - Milford  
New Haven - North Branford - North Haven - Orange - Wallingford - West Haven - Woodbridge

**SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

*Carl Amento, Executive Director*

TO: **SCRCOG Board**  
FROM: **First Selectman Anthony DaRos, SCRCOG Secretary**  
DATE: **July 21, 2010**  
SUBJECT: **D R A F T SCRCOG Minutes of June 23, 2010**

**Present:**

Bethany First Selectwoman Derrylyn Gorski  
Branford First Selectman Anthony DaRos – *Secretary*  
Guilford First Selectman Joseph S. Mazza  
Milford Mayor James Richetelli, Jr.  
New Haven Mayor John DeStefano, Jr.  
North Haven First Selectman Michael Freda  
Wallingford Mayor William Dickinson, Jr.  
West Haven Mayor John Picard - *Treasurer*  
Woodbridge First Selectman Edward Sheehy - *Vice Chair*  
SCRCOG Staff Carl J. Amento – *Executive Director*  
Albert Ruggiero, Stephen Dudley, and James Rode

**Guest Presenters:**

*Louis Mangini*, Legislative Aide for Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro; *Ginny Kozlowski*, Executive Director of REX Development; *Roy Piper*, DEMHS Region 2 Coordinator

**Other Guests:**

*Carlene Kulisch*, South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority; *Jean Stimolo*, Executive Director of Rideworks; *Stephen P. Livingston*, Connecticut Department of Transportation Field Coordinator and Liaison to SCRCOG; *Miriam E. Brody*, League of Women Voters -North Haven; *Mary Bigelow*, GNHTD Board of Directors; and *Nan Birdwhistel*, Murtha Cullina LLP.

In the absence of Chairman Zeoli, the June 23, 2010 meeting of the South Central Regional Council of Governments was called to order at 10:10 A.M. by Vice-Chairman Edward Sheehy. Self introductions of SCRCOG officials and guests then took place.

**ITEM 1 – Legislative Reports**

Louis Mangini, Legislative Aide to Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, reported on the progress of the appropriation requests submitted last January and February for the FY 2011 budget. First Selectwoman Gorski noted that the Town of Bethany was appropriated a portion of a \$4 million federal grant awarded to fourteen Connecticut municipalities for clean energy projects.

## **ITEM 2 – SCRCOG Minutes of May 26, 2010**

Board Secretary, First Selectman DaRos, stated that the *SCRCOG Minutes* were on pages 2 -7 in the agenda packet.

A motion to adopt the *SCRCOG Minutes of May 26, 2010*, as presented, was offered by Mayor Picard and seconded by First Selectman Freda. Upon unanimous vote, the motion passed.

## **ITEM 3 - Treasurer's Report for the Month Ending May 31 2010**

SCRCOG Treasurer, Mayor Picard, presented the *Treasurer's Report*, on pages 8 and 9 in the agenda packet. He advised the officials that SCRCOG has assets of \$479,662 in cash and investment and \$267,792 expected from the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Disclosed on page 9 are the monthly expenses. Staff expects to finish the year with a surplus in its operating budget.

A motion by Mayor Picard, and seconded by First Selectwoman Gorski, was offered to adopt the *Treasurer's Report for the month ending May 31, 2010*. With no further discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **ITEM 4 – Transportation Committee's Report**

### **a. Adopt 2010-2013 TIP Amendment Seven (Resolution on pages 29 and 30 in the agenda packet)**

Approval of this amendment will allow changes to the following projects in the *2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program*. Explanations for these project changes are in the agenda packet.

1. State Project No. 0043-0126 - Shoreline Greenway Trail / East Haven, Branford, Guilford
2. State Project No. 0059-0152 – Rt. 146: Drainage / Roadway Modifications
3. State Project No. 0059-0158 – Guilford Pavement Preservation
4. State Project No. 0061-0148 – Farmington Canal Greenway Tunnel
5. State Project No. 0075-0130 – Shoreline Greenway Trail in Madison
6. State Project No. 0079-0231 – Streetscape from Cook Avenue to North Second Street
7. State Project No. 0083-0253 – Rte 796 (Milford Connector) Sign Replacement
8. State Project No. 0092-0561 – State Street / Mill River Bridge Replacement
9. State Project No. 0092-0583 – Parcels G and H / Harbor Access
10. State Project No. 0092-0614 – Conversion of Route 34
11. State Project No. 0092-0621 – Farmington Canal Greenway
12. State Project No. 0092-0643 – Traffic Control Signal Controllers
13. State Project No. 0092-0650 – PED Safety Improvement
14. State Project No. 0100-0175 – Sackett Point Bridge Replacement
15. State Project No. 0100-0176 – Universal Drive Resurfacing
16. State Project No. 0148-0198 – Quinnipiac River Trail Phase 3
17. State Project No. 0156-0175 – Campbell Avenue Streetscape Improvements
18. State Project No. 0156-XXX1 – Captain Thomas Boulevard Resurfacing
19. State Project No. 0167-0100 – Route 63: Route 67 Intersection Improvements
20. State Project No. 0170-3013 – Inspection of Bridges (on/off System)
21. State Project No. 0170-3014 – Overhead Sign Supports Inspection by Consultant Engineering Firms

Upon the recommendation of the Transportation Committee, Mayor Dickinson, presented a motion to approve *Amendment Seven* for inclusion in the *FFY 2010 – FFY 2013 State Transportation Improvement Program*. The motion, which was seconded by Mayor DeStefano, passed by unanimous vote.

### **b. Adopt Resolution Approving FY 2011-2012 UPWP**

On March 24, 2010, a “draft” *Fiscal Year 2011 and 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)* was adopted by SCRCOG and on April 28, 2010 an *Amendment* was approved. Review of the amended draft was completed by the U.S. Federal Transportation Administration, the U.S. Federal Highway Administration, and the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The Council's Transportation Committee on June 9, 2010 recommended that SCRCOG adopt the final work program.

Transportation Committee Chairman, Mayor Dickinson, offered a motion to adopt the *Resolution* approving the “final” *Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2011 and FY 2012*. Mayor Picard seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **Item 5 – Executive Director’s Report**

Executive Director Amento advised the officials that his written report was on page 33 in the agenda packet.

##### **a. Sustainable Communities Planning Grant**

Executive Director Amento addressed the *Sustainable Communities Planning Grant* he has been working on over the past several months. This \$5-million federal grant would engage several regions in planning and implementation of projects that enhance transportation, housing, and environmental / economic development objectives. Executive Director Amento reported that he was working with the Tri-State Metropolitan Applicant Team to prepare the application. The team includes northern New Jersey, New York City, Westchester County, and the New Haven/Stamford/Bridgeport areas. He added that SCRCOG is actively monitoring an application expected to be submitted by an applicant team from Hartford-Springfield.

Executive Director Amento stated that Ms. Joan McDonald, Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), had recently invited several planning organization officials to discuss the possibility of combining the two teams into one application. No agreement was reached regarding the Commissioner’s suggestion. Everyone is awaiting the *Notice of Funding Availability* (NOFA) to see exactly what will be required, who the applicants can be, and whether it will include implementation as well as planning. The applicants are continuing to proceed as two teams.

##### **b. Move of REX Development to SCRCOG Office**

Executive Director Amento announced that REX Development (formerly Regional Growth Partnership) will likely complete its move into SCRCOG office space by the end of the month. With the creation of three new offices for REX employees, SCRCOG staff has been busy coordinating computers, telephone/fax systems, printers, files, etc. to make this a smooth transition.

##### **c. Employee Leaving SCRCOG Employment**

Executive Director Amento announced that Barbara Bograd, part-time Secretary/Receptionist, left SCRCOG service on June 30, 2010. SCRCOG wishes her well on her endeavors.

##### **d. FEMA**

Executive Director Amento stated that he discussed pre-disaster and natural hazard mitigation planning with FEMA. East Haven, Milford and New Haven have been active in such planning. Ten out of fifteen regional planning organizations in this State have done regional hazard mitigation plans and were able to incorporate town plans. Funding for this endeavor is derived from the federal government with an in-kind match of 25 per cent.

Executive Director Amento said he is contemplating undertaking this on a regional basis utilizing SCRCOG’s Regional Planner, Eugene Livshits. The Regional Planner’s time will consume a lot of the match. Executive Director Amento alerted the officials that he planned on contacting them within the coming weeks to ascertain the status of any local planning efforts and to see if they had a point person. He added that municipal pre-disaster and hazard mitigation plans are required to be updated every three years and could be folded into a regional plan. He suspects there would be incidents in which mitigation actions could involve more than one municipality.

##### **e. Six-Month Report**

A six-month report on the accomplishments of Executive Director Amento is on page 34 in the agenda packet.

#### **ITEM 6 – Appointment to Tweed New Haven Airport Authority**

A vacancy on the 15-member Tweed New Haven Airport Authority Board needs to be filled by July 1, 2010. The consensus was to postpone action on this item until the next meeting.

#### **ITEM 7 – REX Development Report by Executive Director Kozlowski**

REX Executive Director, Ginny Kozlowski, reported that Willie Taylor from the U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, had visited the region on June 4. REX Development's application for an Economic Development District (EDD) Designation is currently under review. She stated that she had a conversation with DECD Commissioner Joan McDonald yesterday and a response on this is expected by July 15. Mayor Picard also had communications with the Commissioner. It was their hope that the proposed state requirement that each EDD have a minimum twenty-town region would not be imposed. They are cautiously optimistic. Executive Director Kozlowski remarked that the rumor about Northeastern COG receiving an approval letter for its EDD was untrue.

Executive Director Kozlowski reported that project sites in Meriden, New Haven, Hamden, and West Haven had been viewed by the EPA official.

The board members were advised by Executive Director Kozlowski that REX Development's revolving loan fund was due to expire at the end of September. A special exemption would be necessary for an extension. Mr. Joe Ferrari, from EPA, concerned with their grant obligations, met with Executive Director Kozlowski. That meeting was successful and Executive Director Kozlowski indicated that REX Development would receive their extension, as well as additional funding. A follow-up meeting is planned next week to present another project from the Town of Branford.

Executive Director Kozlowski announced that the REX Development brand, brochure, and new website were recently launched. Two trade shows, the Orange Economic Development Commission Trade Show and Discover West Haven Trade Show, were held last Wednesday as part of their advertising campaign. SCRCOG officials received hats and brochures promoting the mission of REX Development.

#### **ITEM 8 – Roy Piper - DEMHS Region 2 Coordinator**

Mr. Roy Piper, DEMHS Region 2 Coordinator, reported on two items. First mentioned was the Homeland Security Rate Fund for 2009. The *Memoranda of Agreements* (MOAs) for Region 2 are out and due back Sept. 8, 2010. This year, the Connecticut River Estuary Planning Agency (CREPA) will take the fiduciary role for Region 2. Mr. Piper requested that the signed MOAs be sent to CREPA.

Next, Mr. Piper discussed the annual EMD conference. This is an all-day event scheduled for July 15, 2010. Hold-the-date notices were sent to each of the Emergency Management Directors. As soon as the location is confirmed, he stated that he plans to notify the EMDs and elected officials by e-mail. Mr. Piper added that he would appreciate it if a representative from each of the thirty towns would attend this annual conference, should an EMD not be able to.

#### **ITEM 9 – RPC Action Table for June**

The June, 2010 RPC Action Table is located on page 34 in the agenda packet. No action on this is required.

#### **ITEM 10 – Regional Cooperation / Other Business**

Vice-Chairman Sheehy stated that prior to this meeting, the Executive Committee had met and voted to increase staff wages (2% - 3%), per the Executive Director's personnel review. A salary increase for Executive Director Amento was approved effective July 1, 2010 to \$100,000. Vice Chairman Sheehy added that a copy of the Executive Director's contract and information concerning goals set for next year would be provided at the next meeting. An evaluation of the Executive Director's performance is scheduled for May of 2011.

Mayor DeStefano was concerned about SCRCOG's planned approach for the next legislative session as a regional body. He stated that thought needed to be given to legislation for promoting job creation. Other strategic issues regarding agreements on legislative agendas with the Greater New Haven Chamber, the Regional Leadership Council, REX Development, etc. also need to be discussed to determine how well they serve SCRCOG. The consensus was to initiate discussions on these issues this summer. Staff was advised by Mayor DeStefano to provide a process for creating a SCRCOG legislative agenda with time-frames and procedures. Vice Chairman Sheehy requested this be placed on the agenda for the next SCRCOG meeting.

**ITEM 11 - Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was offered by Mayor Picard and seconded by First Selectman Gorski. Upon unanimous vote, the meeting concluded at 11:20 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anthony DaRos  
SCRCOG Secretary